

Message Text

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FOR: ILA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. EXPRESO OF GUAYAQUIL IN AN EDITORIAL COLUMN JULY 17 BY PERICLES GALLEGOS VALLEJO ENTITLED "UNFAIR ATTITUDE OF U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT TOWARDS ECUADOR," CRITICIZES THE REPEATED US VETO OF THE PROPOSED ISRAELI DEAL TO SELL US SUPPLIED KFIRS TO ECUADOR. POST BELIEVES SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ISSUE JUSTIFIES TRANSMITTAL OF ENTIRE TEXT, AS FOLLOWS:

2. "THE POSITION ADOPTED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS CONTRARY TO LOGIC, IN DENYING THE PETITION FORMULATED BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO SELL ECUADOR 24 KFIR FIGHTER-BOMBERS. IT IS NOT UNKNOWN TO THE GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON THAT PERU IS EQUIPPED WITH SOVIET ARMAMENTS, TANKS, MISSILES, SUOIS (SIC) AND MIG 21 FIGHTER PLANES.
"ON THE OTHER HAND MRS. CARTER, ON HER RETURN TO WASHINGTON AFTER HER VISIT TO SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS INCLUDING ECUADOR AND PERU, NOTED THAT THE SITUATION WAS VERY CONFLICTING AND THAT THERE WERE CLEAR DEMONSTRATIONS OF A THREAT TO PEACE BY THE ECUADORIAN-PERUVIAN SITUATION.
"THE ILLOGICAL POSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS
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ROOTED IN THAT THE US SPECIAL SERVICES 'ARE UNEASY' ABOUT THE GROWING FOOTHOLD OF THE SOVIET ARMY IN PERU; ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH WEEKLY 'LE POINT', WHICH DECLARES FURTHERMORE THAT THERE ARE SOVIET AND CUBAN OFFICIALS INSTRUCTING IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE WAR MATERIAL TO WHICH I HAVE REFERRED. IF ECUADOR IN THE VIGILANCE OF ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND IN ITS DEFENSE, HAS BEEN ABLE TO PURCHASE 24 KFIR

FIGHTERBOMBERS, WHY IS THE U.S. OPPOSED IF IT KNOWS THAT ECUADOR IS NOT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE COMMUNIST ORBIT, WHILE PERU, AS INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION IS AWARE, IS PREPARING AN AGGRESSION NOT ONLY AGAINST OUR COUNTRY BUT ALSO AGAINST OTHERS IN LATIN AMERICA. TIME MAGAZINE A WHILE AGO DECLARED THAT THE USSR HAD SELECTED PERU AS A BASE FOR LAUNCHING A LARGE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE IN LATIN AMERICA. "THE ARGUMENT OF THE U.S. DEPT. OF STATE IS INCONSISTENT, WHEN IT DECLARES THAT ITS POSITION IS TO PREVENT THE SALE OF EXTREMELY MODERN BOMBERS MANUFACTURED IN ISRAEL BECAUSE THIS RISKS PEACE IN THE CONTINENT.

"EARLIER, SOURCES IN THE WHITE HOUSE HAD STATED THAT SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE WAS OPPOSED TO THE SALE TO ECUADOR OF KFIRS OR ANY SORT OF COMPARABLE U.S. ARMS, BECAUSE THIS WOULD INVOLVE THE INTRODUCTION OF A TOTALLY NEW SYSTEM OF ARMAMENTS INTO THE REGION. PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO IS GIVING PROOF OF HIS GREAT SENSITIVENESS IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY, MUST RECALL WHAT HAPPENED IN THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION WHEN THE USSR ASSEMBLED A MISSILE BASE IN CUBA. IN MY COMMENTARY OF JUNE 26 I TOUCHED ON THIS IMMINENT DANGER WHICH THREATENS ECUADOR AND WAS SUGGESTING WHAT THE COUNTRY OUGHT TO DO. "PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER HAS MADE HIMSELF THE STANDARD-BEARER OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THIS ATTITUDE HAS SERIOUSLY DISTURBED THE KREMLIN. PRESIDENT LEONID BREZHNEV, WHO IS AT THE SAME TIME SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, IS APPLYING GREAT PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON UNCLASSIFIED

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BECAUSE HE DECLARES THAT THE ATTITUDE OF MONITORING HUMAN RIGHTS IS AN INTRUSION INTO THE INTERNAL POLICY AND A THREAT AGAINST THE SOVEREIGNTY OF STATES.

"IT APPEARS THAT INNOVATORS IN INTERNATIONAL POLICY WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARE IMPOSING A MISTAKEN LINE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THE ATTITUDE OF PRESIDENT CARTER IN REQUESTING CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON BOMBS, AFFIRMING THAT THIS COULD BRING A WORLD-WIDE HOLOCAUSE, MEANS THAT MR. CARTER DOES NOT DISCARD THE POSSIBILITY OF A THIRD WORLD WAR; IF HE IS SO DETERMINED, EVEN TO A 'WORLDWIDE HOLOCAUST' IN DEFENSE OF HIS COUNTRY AND THE WESTERN COUNTRIES IN GENERAL EXCEPTING THE FEW SPEARPOINTS OF COMMUNIST POWER, HOW IS IT EXPLAINED THAT NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES LIKE ECUADOR WOULD BE DISARMED AND CONSEQUENTLY THREATENED WITH BEING THE FIRST VICTIMS OF THE SOVIET ESCALADE TO CONTROL WORLD POWER?

"IT IS A UNIVERSAL NORM OF POLITICS THAT IT IS NOT THE SAME TO SEE SOMETHING FROM THE 'OUTSIDE' AS FROM THE 'INSIDE'. THAT IS TO SAY THAT A POLITICAL LEADER WHO ASPIRES TO OCCUPY THE FIRST MAGISTRACY OF A COUNTRY CAN OFFER PEACE, AT WHATEVER PRICE, AS MR. CARTER DID IN HIS ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. BUT IS IS VERY DIFFERENT TO SEE THINGS FROM THE

'INSIDE' WHEN ONE HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRESIDENCY
OF A STATE.

"THE PERSONAL CONTACTS WHICH BOTH PRESIDENT CARTER AND
SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE WITH SOVIET
LEADERS WILL MAKE THEM FIND A REALISTIC POSITION TOWARDS THE
COMMUNIST DANGER AND ABANDON THE LYRICAL AREA WHERE THEY ARE
NOW. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT I AM SUGGESTING THAT ECUADOR
SHOULD HUMBLE ITSELF TO THE U.S., WITH A DIMINUTION OF ITS
SOVEREIGNTY AS A FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATE.

"WHAT I AM DOING IS DEFENDING THE RIGHT OF THE ECUADORIAN
PEOPLE TO ARM ITSELF TO DEFEND ITSELF WITH ITS ARMED FORCES
WELL-EQUIPPED, THAT IS, WITHOUT MAKING ANY EASIER OUR
DEFEAT BEFORE PERU AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM.

"THE GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON OUGHT TO SEE CLEARLY
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THAT THE USSR WANTS PERU IN THE SOVIET ORBIT TO REINFORCE
ITS POSITION IN CUBA, JUST AS IT WANTS SYRIA AS A PRINCIPAL
BASE ONCE EGYPT AND IRAQ HAVE EXTRICATED THEMSELVES FROM
THE SOVIET YOKE.

"IN THE FIRST CASE WHAT RUSSIA WANTS IS A BASE IN THE
PACIFIC COMPLEMENTARY TO THAT WHICH IT HAS IN THE CARIBBEAN,
AND IN THE SECOND ITS INTENTION IS TO ESTABLISH IN SYRIA A
PERMANENT NAVAL BASE IN SUPPORT OF ITS MEDITERRANEAN FLEET,
NOW THAT EGYPT HAS NOT ALLOWED IT TO USE THE PORT OF
ALEXANDRIA FOR ABOUT A YEAR."
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